

PFAS narrative:

To provide information to the public about the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in surface water, EPA is using several tools, including two commercially available methods, to analyze surface water samples taken in Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River for up to 24 PFAS. EPA is providing this information to local officials to inform their decisions on cleanup efforts. When reviewing the results, it is important to understand that the analyses should be interpreted with caution due to the brackish nature of the water samples. Through EPA's PFAS Action Plan, the Agency is working to develop and validate a standard method for analyzing PFAS in surface water, which will further assist in the efforts to provide information to the public about PFAS.

EPA currently has no screening levels or standards for PFAS in surface water to use as comparison values. The surface water samples collected during the ITC fire will be analyzed to a detection level for PFAS as low as 10 parts per trillion (ppt). However, due to the newness of the method, the analytical results will take weeks to validate and be releasable in final data form.